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Japan's Faith in the United States.

That there has been, or will be in our time, any danger of actual war between Japan and the United States over the anti-alien land legislation of California nobody, except possibly a few militarists, pretends to believe. But that there is something almost as serious as war in danger of happening must be apparent to every thoughtful observer. This danger is that the warm belief and confidence of Japan in the United States as her tried and trusted friend will give place to painful disappointment and distrust. Such an outcome would be almost as unfortunate as actual war, and in the long run would be immensely detrimental to civilization.

It is greatly to the credit of the National Administration that everything possible has been done by the President and the Secretary of State to convince

the Japanese government and people of the sincere goodwill of our nation as a whole toward them. These efforts have not resulted in preventing, or even in delaying, the obnoxious legislation in California. But what they have accomplished in saving Japan's faith in our country as a whole has been of untold value. On the basis of this mutual confidence a way is sure to be found for the adjustment of the pending difference that will be satisfactory to both governments. Genuine goodwill and fairness of disposition rarely ever fail to find the right adjustment of differences.

No less worthy of admiration has been the conduct of the responsible statesmen in Japan in restraining the people from exhibitions of violent resentment toward our country because of what has been done in California. All popular clamor for war has been discountenanced and measurably suppressed. The leaders of Japan, both in public letters and in addresses before great popular meetings, have insisted that the Japanese people should discriminate between the small section of our citizens in California who are anti-Japanese and the great body of our people who are, as they always have been, in favor of entire justice and fair dealing with the Mikado's subjects. These Japanese statesmen believe, as they are fully justified in believing, that in the long run the people of this nation as a whole, and not a small coast section of it, will determine the course which the nation shall pursue in any foreign affair.

The situation as it exists at the present moment, with the anti-alien land law actually written on the statute books of California, is sufficiently disturbing. But with the attitude of both governments what it is, a peaceful solution of the question at issue will be found. The historic friendship between Japan and the United States will suffer no serious impairment. It is worse than folly for anybody to be tossing the word "war" back and forth. War between Japan and the United States is impossible, for more reasons than one could enumerate in a single article. Nor will war be prevented by the forcible suppression and humiliation of Japan. Either by a plebiscite of the Californians themselves or by some suitable national legislation, as has already been proposed in the House of Representatives, a way out of the difficulty will be found which will save our great country from the shame and dishonor of a course out of all harmony with our political principles and professions and our shining records of open-heartedness and helpfulness toward the incomers from all countries of the world. Japan will in the long run be fairly and honorably dealt with. This is written in the American fates.